A

SPEECH

Lately made by a Noble

PEER

OF THE

REALM.

IN this Great Debate concerning the King's Speech, *the ſad State and Condition We are in*, and the Remedies thereof; I have Offered You my Opinion, and many Lords have ſpoken admirable well to it, with great Freedom and Plainneſs, as the Caſe requires.

Give me leave to offer you ſome few Words, in anſwer to two or three of my Lords of the Earls Bench, that have maintained the contrary Opinion.

My Lord, Near me, hath told your Lordſhips, that the Preſident of *Hen.* the 4. that *I* offered to you (who was a Wiſe and Magnanimous, Prince, and yet upon the Adreſs of his Parliament, *put away a great part of his Family, and Councils at one time*,) is no proper inſtance, becauſe he was an Uſurper, had an ill Title, and was bound to pleaſe the People.

My Lords, *I* meddle not with his Title, *I* am ſure our King hath a very undoubted one; But this My Lord *I* muſt allow, that the wiſe Prince having *need of the People*, knew no better way to pleaſe them, and to create a good *Intelligence* between them and him, then to put away thoſe from Court and Council that were unacceptable to them.

If our King hath the ſame Neceſſity to pleaſe the People, (though for other Reaſons then want of a Title;) Yet *I* am ſure the Preſident holds, that a Wiſe Prince, when he hath need of his People, will rather *part with his Family and Counſellors, then diſpleaſe them.*

My Lords, This Noble Lord near me, hath found fault with that Preſident, that he ſuppoſes *I* offered your Lordſhips concerning the Chargeable *Ladies* at Court; But *I* remember no ſuch thing, *I* ſaid; But if *I* muſt Speak of them, *I* ſhall ſay as the Prophet did to King *Saul*, *what means the Bea-ting of this kind of Cattle?* and *I* hope the King will make me the ſame anſwer, *that he reſerves them for Sacrifice, and means to deliver them up to pleaſe his People.*

For there muſt be, (*in plain* Engliſh,) My Lords, a *change*; We muſt neither have *Popiſh* Wife, nor *Popiſh* Favourite, nor *Popiſh* Miſtreſs, nor *Popiſh* Counceller at Court, or any new Convert What *I* Spoke was about another *Lady* that belongs not to the Court, but like *Simpronia* in *Catalines* Conſpiracy, does more Miſchief then *Cethegus.*

In

In this time of Diſtreſs, *I* could humbly adviſe our Prince would take the ſame courſe that the Duke of *Savoy* did, to ſuffer neither Strangers nor Embaſſadors to ſtay above ſome few weeks in his Country; for all the Strangers and Embaſſadors here, have ſerved the PLOT, and Deſign againſt us; *I* am ſure they have no tye to be for Us

But my *Lords*, what *I* roſe up to Speak, was more eſpecially to my *Lord* of the *Earls Bench*, that ſpoke laſt, and ſits behind me: VVho, as he hath an greateſt *Influence* in our preſent Councils; ſo he hath let fall to you the very Root of the matter, and the Hinges upon which all turns; He tells you that the Houſe of Commons have lately made offers to the King, and he wonders we do not expect the Kings Anſwer to them, before we enter into ſo hot and high Debates.

He tells you, if the King be aſſured of Supplies we cannot doubt of his Complyance in this, and all we can ask; for otherwiſe the King ſhould fall into that that is the worſt condition of a Prince, to have his People have no confidence in him; My *Lords*, This is that I know they put the King upon, and this is that *we muſt be ruined by*, if we may not with *Freedom and Plainneſs* open our Caſe.

My Lords, 'Tis a very hard thing to ſay *that we cannot truſt the King*; and that we have already been deceived ſo often, that we ſee plainly the apprehenſions of *Diſcontent* in the People, is no argument at Court. And though our Prince be in himſelf an Excellent Perſon, that the People have the greateſt *Inclinations* imaginable to love; yet we muſt ſay he is ſuch an one, *as no Story affords us a Parallel of*. How plain and how many are the proofs of the *Deſign to Murder Him? How little is He apprehenſive of it?*

The

The Tranſactions between him and his Brother are Admirable, and Incomprehenſible; His Brothers deſigns being early known, to aim at the Crown, before His Majeſties *Reſtoration* to this Kingdom.

This Match with a *Portugal* Lady, not like to have Children, *Contrived by the Dukes Father-in-Law*; and no ſooner effected, but the Duke and his Party, make Proclamation to the World, that we are like to have no Children, that He muſt be the certain Heir.

He takes his Seat in Parliament, as Prince of *Wales*, His Guards about him; The Princes Lodgings at *White-Hall*, his Guards upon the ſame Floor, without any Interpoſition, between him and the King; So that the King was in his Hands, and in his Power every Night: All Offices and Preferments being beſtowed by him, *Not a Biſhop made without him*,

This

This Prince changes his Religion to make himſelf a Party, and ſuch a Party that his Brother muſt be ſure *to dye* and be *made away*, to make room for Him; nothing could preſerve him, but that which I hope he will never do, give greater earneſt to that wicked Party than his Brother could; and after all, *this Plot* breaks out, plainly *headed by the Duke*, his Intereſt and his Deſign.

How the King hath behaved himſelf ever ſince the breaking out of it, the World knows; we have expected every hour that the Court ſhould joyn with the Duke againſt us: And it is evident more hath been done to make the *Plot* a *Presbyterian Plot*, than to diſcover it.

The *Prorogations*, the *Diſſolutions*, the Cutting *ſhort* of *Parliaments*, not ſuffering them to *have time* or opportunity *to look into any thing*, hath ſhew'd what reaſon we have to have confidence in this *Court*. We are now come to a *Parliament* again, by what *Fate* or what *Council*, for my part I cannot *gueſs*; neither do I underſtand the *Riddle* of it.

The Duke is quitted and ſent away; the Houſe of Commons have brought up a Bill to diſable him of the Crown; and I think they are ſo far *extreamly* in the *right*; but your Lordſhips are wiſer than I, and have rejected it; yet you have thought fit, and the King himſelf hath made the *Propoſition*, to make ſuch *Expedients* as ſhall render him but a *Nominal Prince*.

In the mean while where's *this Duke*, that the King and both Houſes have declared unanimouſly *thus dangerous*? Why he is in *Scotland raiſing of Forces* upon the *Terra firma*, that can enter dry foot upon us, without hazard of Winds or Seas, the very place he ſhould be in to raiſe a party there, to be ready when from hence he ſhall have notice: So that this being the caſe, *where is the truſt*? We all think the buſineſs is *ſo ripe*, that they have the *Gar-*

riſons,

riſons, the *Arms*, the *Ammunition*, the *Seas* and *Souldiery* all in their *hands*; they want but one good *Summe of Money to ſet up*, and *Crown the Work*, and then they ſhall have *no more need* of the *People*; and I believe whether they are pleaſed or no will be no great trouble to them.

My Lords, I hear of a *Bargain* in the Houſe *of Commons*, and an *Addreſs* made to the *King*; but this I know, and muſt *boldly ſay it* and *plainly*, that the Nation is *Betray'd* if upon any Terms we part *with our Money* till we are *ſure the King is ours*; have what *Laws* you will, and what *Conditions* you will, they will be of *no uſe* but *waſt Paper* before *Eaſter*, if the Court have *Money to ſet up for Popery and Arbitrary Deſigns* in the mean while.

On the other hand give me leave to tell you, my Lords, the King hath no reaſon to diſtruſt his People; no man can go home and ſay, that if the King *comply* with his *People* they will *do nothing for him*, but take all up from him. We want a *Government* and we want a *Prince* that we may *truſt*, even with the *ſpending* of *half* our *Annual Revenue*, for ſome time, for the *Preſervation* of theſe Nations.

The growing Greatneſs of the *French* cannot be ſtopt with a little Expence, nor without a real and hearty *Union* of the King and his People. It was never known in *England* that our Princes wanted Supplies either for their Forreign deſigns, or for their Pleaſures; nothing ever ſhut the *Engliſh Purſes* but the fears of having their *Money* uſed againſt them.

The hour that the King ſhall *ſatisfie the People*, that what we give is not to make us *Slaves* and *Papiſts*, he may have what he will; and this your Lordſhips *know* and all mankind that knows us: Therefore let me plainly tell your Lordſhips, the *Arguments* that the preſent Miniſters uſe, is *to Deſtroy the King* and not *Preſerve* him: For if

the

the King will first see what we will do for him, it is impossible if we are in our Senses we should *do* any thing.

But if he will first shew that he is *intirely ours*, that he *Weds* the *Interest* and the *Religion* of the Nation, 'tis impossible he should *want any thing* that we can *give*.

But I see how the Argument will be us'd: Sir, they will *do nothing* for you, what should you do with these men? But on the other hand I am *bold* to say,

Sir, You may have any thing of *this Parliament*; *put away these Men*, *change your Principles*, *change your Court*, *and be your self*; for the King himself may have any thing of us.

My Lords, if I have been too *plain*, I beg your Pardon; I thought it was the *Duty* of an *English Nobleman*, at this time to speak *plain or never*.

I am sure I mean well: and if any man can answer or oppose Reason to what I say, I beg they would do it; for I do not desire or propose any Question.

I Beg this *Debate* may last for *some dayes*, and that we may go to the *bottom* of the *matter*, and see if these things are so or no, and what Cure there is of the Evil we are in; and then the Result of your Debates may produce some proper Question.

However, we know who *hears*, and I am *glad* of this, that your Lordships have dealt so *Honourably* and so *clearly* in the *Kings presence* and in the *Kings hearing*, that he cannot say he wants a *right State of things*; he hath it before him, and may take Councel as he thinks fit.

LONDON,
Printed for *F. S.* at the Elephant and Castle near the *Royal Exchange* in *Cornhil*, 1681.